



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

In Reply Refer To: GM 623E

NOV 17 2016

Dr. Billy D. Causey
Regional Director
Southeast Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Region
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
33 East Quay Road
Key West, Florida 33040

RE: BOEM's Delivery of Essential Information for the *Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Expansion Final Environmental Impact Statement*

Dear Dr. Causey:

Thank you for providing the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) the opportunity to submit analyses detailing essential information for use in the *Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Expansion Final Environmental Impact Statement*. As you know, BOEM has been working as a cooperating agency on the environmental impact statement (EIS) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. As a cooperating agency, BOEM recommended, prior to publication of the Draft EIS, that analyses should be performed on specific impacts related to mineral and energy development in the area of the proposed expansion and that the information from the analyses should be included in the Draft EIS. These recommendations included the following:

- analyze the discovered, contingent, and undiscovered oil and gas resource potential beneath the proposed Sanctuary expansion areas;
- determine rough cost estimates for directional drilling from outside the Sanctuary beneath the proposed expansion areas because directional drilling may be necessary if the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits do not allow discharge in a marine sanctuary;
- determine the economic loss to the Federal Government from a reduction in Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing if Sanctuary blocks are not leased;
- determine which blocks that are currently leased would be affected by the proposed Sanctuary expansion areas;
- determine rough cost estimates to route new pipelines around the expanded Sanctuary; and
- quantify the extent of the expansion beyond what BOEM currently protects.

(b) (5)

BOEM Response to NOAA EO 13795 Data Request
Review of National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments
Energy and Marine Mineral Impacts
INSERT DATE, 2017

Under Section 4.b.i.C of Executive Order 13795, NOAA is currently completing an opportunity cost analysis of the possible impacts that any National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) expansion, or Marine National Monument (MNM) designation/expansion, over the past 10 years could have on Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas development, along with other offshore energy and mineral production. On June 20, 2017, NOAA made a request to BOEM for technical information to support their review.

BOEM responses to the NOAA questions are contained in this document. The responses are limited to areas within BOEM OCS jurisdiction. They are divided into three categories: (1) conventional energy, (2) renewable energy, and (3) marine minerals.

It should be noted that the following NMSs and MNMs are not within BOEM OCS jurisdiction, and thus they are not analyzed in our response:

1. Marianas Trench Marine National Monument
2. National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa
3. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument
4. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
5. Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
6. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

In addition to the analysis described above, BOEM is also including a copy of the analysis it provided NOAA in November 2016, related to offshore energy impact of two alternatives contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary proposed boundary expansion.